

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6831**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 183**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 16, 2004

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Veteran Affairs.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Paul

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** X **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
**FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that if money is available for financial assistance for veterans, the Department of Veterans' Affairs may use city service officers and county service officers to distribute the money.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2005.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** See *Explanation of Local Expenditures*.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** This bill would allow city and county service officers to distribute money to veterans if money for financial assistance for veterans becomes available. In addition, if there is at any time no city or county service officer in a particular city or county, the Department of Veterans' Affairs may provide the financial assistance directly, or enter into an agreement with the city or county service officer of a contiguous city or county for the distribution of the financial assistance. The bill would permit additional flexibility for the Department of Veterans' Affairs and potentially create additional work load for city and county service officers. However, the bill states that this would only occur if money for financial assistance for veterans becomes available. The likelihood of this occurring is unknown.

**Background Information:** Current statute requires each county to designate a county service officer to serve the veterans of the county. All counties currently employ a county service officer, with the exception of Marion and Morgan. These two counties are served by national service officers located at the federal Veterans

Administration office in Marion County. County service officers' salaries range from \$2,000 to \$38,920; average weekly hours vary as well. There are 36 counties that employ some form of support staff. Workloads vary by county depending on the number of veterans residing within the county and the type of assistance each individual requires. Some counties could have to employ an additional service officer or a support staff person if workloads increase significantly. Ultimately, any increase in workload, or need for additional staff, is dependent on whether or not money becomes available for financial assistance for veterans, and the given workload for a particular city or county service officer.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Veterans' Affairs.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Veterans County Service Officers.

**Information Sources:** Jim Kaiser, Department of Veterans' Affairs.

**Fiscal Analyst:** Sarah Brooks, 317-232-9559.